[21st September 1956

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The hon. Member has built up his proposition on wrong premises which I do not accept. The Revenue Divisional Officers have been exercising their discretion properly and well.

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN : Is the practice of making elementary school teachers in villages, such postmasters still continued, and if so, have they time enough to attend to these duties in addition to their regular teaching work?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I think the subject of elementary school teachers is in the hands of the Hon. the Finance Minister.

Construction of bridge at Nileshwar

11-40 a.m. * 155 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to question No. 1044 on 19th May 1954—

(a) the present stage of the construction of the bridge at Nileshwar in South Kanara district; and

(b) why the work has been delayed?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (a) Nearly 85 per cent of the work has been completed by the end of June 1956. The work is expected to be completed by 31st December 1956.

(b) The delay in completing the work is due to some difficulties experienced in regard to foundation during the initial stages of the work. A series of tests had to be conducted before finalising the depth of foundations and determining the settlement characteristics of the foundation soil. Further work had to be resumed only after completing all those tests.

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Can it be expected that this work will be completed before the end of this year?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : That is what I have stated just now. It will be completed in December 1956, that is, the end of the year, I suppose.

Improvement of the Port at Azhikkal

* 156 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri K. P. Gopalan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government propose to improve the port of Azhikkal in Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar;

(b) if so, the improvements that would be carried out; and

(c) the total estimated expenditure sanctioned for them?